

Perry SWCD Funding for Cover Crops

If you applied for a fall 2016 cover crop payment through the Soil and Water Conservation District, here are a few items to remember: 1) Do not purchase seed until your application is approved, 2) Borrow soil test ring to take soils test(s) once cash crops are harvested, 3) Turn in cover crop seed invoices to Karen before November 30, 2016, 4) Report planted cover crops to FSA.

If you are interested in a payment per acre for planting a cover crop next fall, contact the SWCD office. Your name will be placed on a list to contact in May/June so that your application can be completed and cover crop seed can be purchased while seed supplies are higher and prices are lower. This will also allow for you to be able to plant as soon as crops are harvested. **The deadline to apply for fall 2017 cover crops applications will be August 11, 2017.** Cover crops contracted through the SWCD must be no-tilled or broadcasted and the following cash crop must be no-tilled as well. Cover crops cannot be harvested for hay, seed or grain.

EQIP Sign-up Deadline is November 18

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) announced November 18 as the cut-off date to apply for fiscal year 2017 funds through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP).

EQIP provides opportunities for financial assistance to applicants who have natural resource issues on their land, including concerns associated with crops, soil health, livestock, forest and wildlife. EQIP also offers special initiatives such as the On-Farm Energy Initiative, Seasonal High Tunnel Initiative, Organic Initiative and Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)/Glade Restoration.

To apply or for more information, contact the NRCS office before November 18.

Conservation Stewardship Program

The Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP), available through the NRCS for operators of crop, pasture and/or forest land uses, is undergoing some major changes. Watch newspaper for upcoming sign-up deadline and program information. If you are a good conservation steward, check into what the program has to offer to help address your resource concerns.

Welcome Two New Employees

Kyle Lorenz is the new Private Lands Conservationist for Perry and Ste Genevieve Counties. He grew up around Farrar working on the family farm. Kyle has a degree in Biology-Wildlife Conservation. Previously, he worked as the Wildlife Biologist in the Elsberry District. Kyle has experience managing a diversity of natural resource habitats and will work with landowners to improve the wildlife habitat on their farm(s).

Jacob Bachmann will begin work as a SWCD/NRCS Technician in Perry, Ste Genevieve, Cape and St. Francois Counties in October. He grew up in Crosstown and has a degree in Agriculture. Jacob raises his own grass-fed beef and pastured poultry and helps his dad farm. He will be assisting landowners with state and federal programs/practices.

Winter Feeding Buildings Update

Winter feeding buildings are now available for sheep and goat operations. CNMP is required prior to planning.

Contractor List

Please contact the SWCD office if you are interested in being placed on a contractor list of any sort (ex. Earthwork, Seeding Practices, Livestock Water Development, Winter Feeding Building (Concrete or Building)).

FSA REPORTING DEADLINES: HAY/PASTURE – NOVEMBER 15, 2016, WHEAT – DECEMBER 15, 2016

Perry SWCD Cost-Share Sign-up

The sign-up process for erosion control structures, such as dry structures, grassed waterways, ponds, and critical area treatments, is on a first-come, first-serve basis. This process assures that if an owner signs up, they will get cost-share. However, the list is continually growing. Only owners may sign an application.

Farm Maintenance

Spot checks are being conducted on cost-shared practices. Make sure your practices are up to specs. Vertical drain buffers must be adequate in grass/size and any break-outs addressed. Assure risers are in place/functioning. Remove sprouts on pond dams.

Also, remember to address ephemeral gullies for HEL Compliance purposes. Ephemeral gullies are concentrated flow channels formed when rills converge to form shallow channels. They are alternately filled with soil by tillage operations and re-formed in the same general location by subsequent runoff events. These areas should be seeded down with grass, at the least.